

we thank You for the awareness that only by facing reality can we change it; for reminding us that You fashioned us beyond dust and ashes; that we can be little lower than the angels after all.

We thank You for the vision of our local leadership; of the Wheeling National Heritage Corporation, and Mayor Nick Sparachane.

We are grateful for the presence of Congressman Alan B. Mollohan who is with us this morning to help us dedicate heritage port.

We thank You for Senator Robert Byrd—his dedication, his devotion, and his love for the people of West Virginia. Because of his vision, drive and commitment, the people of Wheeling have a new place of beauty to imagine a brighter future.

Bless us all, and the work of our hands. With pride in our past, with hope for our future, with faith in You and faith in each other do we gather this day to dedicate this heritage port.

Amen.

THE BENEDICTION PRAYER, BY DR. D.W. CUMMINGS

Dear Father, O Father, Father of us all. Red, Yellow, Black and White, we are precious in your sight. Thank you for the dedication of Wheeling Heritage Port. Thank you for our local leadership. The may of Wheeling, the councilmen of Wheeling, the Wheeling Heritage Port Board, Representative Mollohan, Senator Robert C. Byrd and all who made this dream come true.

Thank you for the memory of Harry Ham. Thank you for the knowledge that one of the main reasons why Wheeling is not the Capital of the state of West Virginia is because of a clown.

Lord, we know that is not the end of a Hopeful City, and neither is it the beginning. But Lord, let it be the end of the beginning. Help us to move to the next level of making Wheeling and the Ohio Valley a more hopeful area, and a more hopeful city for all its residents.

Gracious Lord, help us to always remember that "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." In Jesus name Amen.

FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam President, today I would like to take a moment and recognize all those brave firefighters who died in the line of duty last year.

This past Sunday—October 7—was National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day. The President and Mrs. Bush joined with thousands of family members and friends at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, located in Emmitsburg, MD, to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. In 2000, 99 brave men and women in 38 States and Puerto Rico lost their lives trying to save the lives of others. I am saddened to say Mr. Robert W. Crump from the Denver Fire Department was one of the many honored this past weekend.

In 1999, over 1.8 million fires were attended to by a public fire department. That means fire departments across the country responded to a fire once every 17 seconds. In that same year, fire resulted in over \$10 billion of property damage, almost 22,000 civilian injuries, and almost 3,000 civilian deaths.

We currently have over a million firefighters in the United States. While there are thousands of career firefighters that serve us each day in cities across the country, there are over 785,000 volunteer firefighters. In fact, most communities with less than 25,000 people are served by these volunteer units.

As we saw on September 11th, firefighters are among the first on the scene. It is without a doubt that there would have been hundreds if not thousands of more victims without the help of those brave public servants. It is our job to make sure that these our firefighters have the right tools and training so that they may continue to work saving thousands of people each year.

We must also remember that these acts of bravery not only occur in our cities but also in our national forests. As a citizen of the American West, I have seen the devastating effect forest fires have on our country. An average of over 100,000 fires burn nearly 4 million acres each year. Federal forest firefighters based throughout the country work with local departments to protect the national forest system.

Since 1981 the names of 2,181 firefighters have been added to the plaques that surround the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. As a Co-Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I will continue to work to insure that these firefighters will not be forgotten.

RECOGNITION OF TOM MORFORD

• Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I rise today to say thank you and farewell to a trusted friend and a dedicated public servant, Tom Morford. For the past 5 years, Tom has served as the deputy administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, helping to bring health care to millions of underserved Americans. Without much fanfare or public recognition, he has quietly and dutifully served the American people in this post and in many others over the past three decades.

I do not know if Tom had planned for such a long career in public service when he came to Washington in 1971. Since he first began as a management intern at the then Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Tom has held numerous positions, authored 12 papers, and received more awards than time will allow me to recite.

For the past five years as deputy administrator at HRSA, Tom spent his days making hundreds of phone calls, reviewing budgets, and signing contracts. It isn't the kind of work that will make you famous, but it does make a tremendous difference.

Tom was responsible for some of America's most vital public health programs; the construction of health care facilities, the operation of health clinics in underserved areas, and the training of healthcare professionals. His leadership helped strengthen the na-

tion's community health centers, bringing primary health care services to nearly 12 million people this past year alone. Tom also helped pioneer the comprehensive telehealth network which provides first-class health care to the hardest to reach communities.

Yet Tom's accomplishments go much further than the systems he oversaw or the facilities he helped build. Tom's greatest skill has always been his desire to put aside egos and politics so he could concentrate on serving the American people. From the secretaries and grants officers at HRSA to Members of Congress, Tom listens, builds relationships and trust, then gets the job done. By his example alone, Tom reminds us why we entered public service—to make a difference.

Now, thirty years later, Tom has decided to move on. He leaves behind a tremendous legacy and our nation's health care system is better for his efforts. While he will be sorely missed, we thank him for what he has already anonymously done for millions of people.

It is said that "a hand never opens in vain." Tom Morford has spent the last 30 years opening his hands to a succession of presidents and secretaries, to legislators, and to health care providers and advocates. Most importantly, Tom Morford opened his hands to the millions of forgotten who are often left in the shadows of our society.

On behalf of my colleagues in the Congress and the millions of Americans who don't know Tom, but who benefit from his work, I say a simply thank you. Thank you, Tom, for opening your hands to lift those most in need. You will be missed.

Mr. SPECTER. Today I want to salute and thank Mr. Thomas G. Morford, as he retires from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), after almost 30 years of dedicated service to the American people. As the Ranking Member of the Labor, HHS, and Education Subcommittee on Appropriations, I want to express my gratitude to Tom for the assistance he has provided to our subcommittee over the years. His knowledge of appropriations law and the federal budgetary process, and his willingness to assist my staff has been an invaluable service to the subcommittee. Tom spent many long hours, working under tight deadlines, putting together the President's budget and, in turn, helping our subcommittee complete our appropriations bills. Vital programs like Healthy Start, the National Health Service Corps, Ryan White AIDS programs, and Health Professions—to name a few—have benefited from Tom's tireless efforts.

Tom has been a valued member of the staff at HHS, first in the Office of the Secretary, then with the Health Care Financing Administration, and finally with the Health Resources and Services Administration. My staff and I will miss his presence, guidance, patience, and good humor during the fiscal year